

singleness of heart. Perhaps you are one of God's special agents for carrying out his special purposes.

The blessed virgin is last mentioned in Acts 1:14; and thus Scripture leaves her in prayer. This is the holy privilege of every child of God. And the mother who has daily communion with her Savior is sweeter and lovelier because she has knelt at the feet of Jesus.

Ashland, O.

Our Young People

Things That Never Die

The pure, the bright, the beautiful,
That stirred our hearts in youth,
The impulses to wordless prayer,
The dreams of love and truth;
The longings after something lost,
The spirit's yearning cry,
The strivings after better hopes—
These things can never die.

The timid hand stretched forth to aid
A brother in his need,
A kindly word in grief's dark hour
That proves a friend indeed;
The plea for mercy softly breathed,
When justice threatens nigh
The sorrow of a contrite heart—
These things shall never die.

The memory of a clasping hand,
The pressure of a kiss,
And all the trifles, sweet and frail,
That make up love's first bliss:
If with a firm, unchanging faith,
And holy trust and high,
Those hands have clasped, those lips have met—
These things shall never die.

The cruel and the bitter word,
That wounded as it fell;
The chilling want of sympathy
We feel, but never tell:
The hard repulse that chills the heart,
Whose hopes were bounding high,
In an unfading record kept—
These things shall never die.

Let nothing pass, for every hand
Must find some work to do;
Lose not a chance to waken love—
Be firm and just and true.
So shall a light that cannot fade
Beam on thee from on high,
And angel voices say to thee,
These things shall never die.

—Charles Dickens.

ALWAYS READY

Luke 21:29-36; 12:35-40

Topic for March 25.

The thought of the return of our Lord has been a fascinating one in every age of the church. According to Moody the N. T. writers speak of it 318 times in 260 chapters—more than of any other single theme. The thought has been the inspiration of countless epistles and sermons since, and today we cherish the hope that the world may be sufficiently evangelized to insure the fulfillment of the promise of his coming in our own generation.

Critics disagree as to the time and manner of the return but all agree that the fact is real. We need not now discuss the scriptures bearing upon these details; the thought of our lesson is that of being ready. "The day and hour of the return knoweth no man, not even the angels," in order that none may say, I will sleep until the time draw nigh, but that all may watch and be ready.

There have been those at different times who have sought to be ready by selling their possessions and

waiting in white robes for the sound of the trumpet, but such have waited in vain. The scriptures teach no such preparation for that event, but rather the diligent use of the talents entrusted that at the return there may be both capital and interest ready.

We may recall the old story of the member of the Mass. legislature who at the time of the dark day when people thought the world was coming to an end, and the legislature was about to adjourn, arose and said, "This well may be the day of judgment which the world awaits but be it so or not, I only know my present duty. Here at my post would I be found when my Lord return. Let the lights be brought in."

This is the thought of our lesson. Each at his post of duty will be found of the Lord more easily than those away from duty can find him.

John Wesley was once asked, "What would you do if you knew you were to die tomorrow night?" He replied, "If I knew that I should die tomorrow night I would preach tonight at the school house where I have an appointment and stay all night with Brother A as I have agreed to do, and tomorrow I would ride to B where I must preach tomorrow night, and, after church I would have my evening prayer and retire to sleep as usual, ready to waken in glory."

It is good to search the scriptures and to know their teaching concerning the second coming of Christ but it is better to know his commandments and do them that we may be ready at any time to meet him with joy and not with shame.

A missionary said when dying, "It is all right with me; if I die I shall be with him and if I live he shall be with me." This is a glorious truth that even now we may have fellowship with him (I John 1:3) and in this fellowship we may find joy and fruitfulness, and by and by when he shall appear, "we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is," and "we shall be satisfied when we shall awake in his likeness."

ALWAYS READY

1. The return of the Lord promised. John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 2:19; 3:13; 5:23; Matt. 24:27; Mark 8:38.
2. The manner of the return. Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16, 17; Matt. 25:31, 32.
3. When. Matt. 24:36, 37; Heb. 10:37; Rev. 22:12.
4. What to do "till he come":
Witness for him, I Cor. 11:26.
Be patient, James 5:8.
Use your talents, Luke 19:13.
Preach the gospel, II Tim. 4:18.
Fight the good fight, I Tim. 6:12-14.
Comfort one another, I Thess. 4:13-18.
"Rest with us," II Thess. 1:7.
5. Some things to avoid. Luke 21:34; I Tim. 4:1-5; I John 1:18. Miscellaneous References. Matt. 24:14; Dan. 12:3, 4; Ps. 90:12; Rev. 20:12-14; Luke 18:8; Matt. 6:33; II John 8; Rev. 22:10-12.

FOR OPEN DISCUSSION

1. Why is it better for us not to know just how and when the Lord may come?
2. What does Jesus mean by "Be ready." Luke 12:40.
3. What reasons are there why all should try to be ready for our Lord's return?
4. Can all be ready who try?
5. What reward is there for those who shall be found ready to meet the Lord? Luke 12:37.
6. What punishment awaits those who are not ready to meet the Lord? Matt. 25:12.
7. How can we be ready for the Savior's coming when asleep?
8. What must the sinner do in order to be ready for our Lord's return?
9. How can children be "always ready" to meet the Savior?
10. What can we do to help everybody be ready for the day of the Lord? C. F. YODER.

SERMON ECHOES

LOUIS S. BAUMAN

For Laymen

Start to church from your closet.

The hungry are not hard to feed.

Don't blame the bread when the appetite is poor.

You will find Christ where you lose self.

Few men practice what they pray—at the ballot-box.

Many a man will be lost by following a lost pilot.

If you look for trouble, the chances are, you'll find it.

There is little charity in giving away what you don't need.

Christians are not angels, truly, but they are sinners saved by grace.

A man that isn't a Christian on Monday, isn't a Christian on Sunday.

If you want to be coaxed, the chances are you ought to be clubbed.

Every ballot cast for the license parties pours nearly eight hundred pints of liquor down the throats of the American people.

Roann, Ind.

From the President

My dear young people:—It has been quite a long time since I addressed you thru this department. However, I have not forgotten you nor your work. Indeed, I take both daily to God and pray him that he may lead us forth into a higher and deeper Christian life and service, and that we, tho small, may become a positive and potent power for good both in our own beloved church, and thru her, as a means, reach out in our Christian activity, even into the regions beyond.

I have received not a few letters from the various societies, that speak very encouragingly of their work, both at home and what they have done thru their contributions elsewhere. I am glad to receive these letters and whenever a reply is asked for, or I feel that one is needed, I make it.

I wonder why more of the societies do not report thru their corresponding secretaries to this department. Nothing could be more helpful than to be able to print one or more such reports each week. I hope no society has allowed itself to get into a "rut." If not, then you have varied your services and methods of work. Why not tell others about it? Why be selfish? The difficulties of one society are generally the difficulties of all. If you have met these general difficulties and solved them, why not give it to others? Again, if you have met with difficulties that you can not cope with, why not ask this department for light and suggestions? We ought indeed make this department of the paper the best. We can do this if we will. Let us attempt it. Will not the president of each society see that a report of the work of his society for the past three months be